

From: [Goodwin, Kyle](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] May 22, 2023 - Special Assessments Pursuant to Systemic Risk Determination - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; Comment Request (RIN 3064-AF93)
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:34:52 PM

Mr. James P. Sheesley
Assistant Executive Secretary
Attention: Comments—RIN 3064-AF93
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20429

Dear Mr. Sheesley:

I am writing today in support of your proposed rule to exempt community banks under \$5 billion from the special assessment to replenish the deposit insurance fund following the systemically risky bank failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank earlier this year.

I am the Chairman, CEO, and President of First Financial Bank headquartered in Bessemer, Alabama. Our Bank, founded in 1937, currently has 8 branch locations and approximately \$220 million in assets. Given that our branches are primarily in small, rural communities, our Bank has always put a focus and emphasis on the consumers and small businesses within our footprint, which has led to a stable deposit base through long-term relationships. This has also led us to maintain only a small percentage of uninsured deposits, which we view as a more safe and sound business practice. As with other community banks throughout the United States, our Bank does not pose the same risk to the deposit insurance fund as these failed institutions did and, therefore, should not be asked to pay a special assessment to the deposit insurance fund.

I commend the FDIC for their proposed rule to provide this exemption to community banks, and I encourage the FDIC to finalize the rule as proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment on behalf of First Financial Bank.

Sincerely,

Kyle Goodwin
Chairman, CEO, and President
First Financial Bank
Bessemer, AL